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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blackfriars Bridge closing must be extended due to need for additional structural repairs

The current repair work on Blackfriars Bridge has revealed a need for more extensive maintenance work than originally anticipated. As a result, the bridge will remain closed to road traffic until June 8.

"We regret any inconvenience this causes drivers," says Don Purchase, a Manager of Operations with the City's Roadsides Division. "Additional repair time is necessary because structural steel clips must be replaced."

Initially, the project involved replacing damaged deck boards - the cause of noise as vehicles pass over the bridge. However, once the boards were removed it was discovered that the clips securing these boards had deteriorated. "The scope of the remediation work is significant," notes Purchase.

Erected in 1875, the Blackfriars Bridge is a rare example of a bowstring through truss bridge. With a 225-foot-span over the North Branch of the Thames River London's first iron bridge is believed to be one of the world's longest.

During the repair period, only road traffic is affected. The pedestrian walkway will remain open as will the Thames Valley Parkway connecting Gibbons Park and Harris Park.